

were being violated, like in steel—where we were having steel dumped—I felt that we should try to do that, that that should be our contribution, because we were doing well, and we ought to try to help these countries as much as we could.

But we cannot maintain an open trading system, which I am convinced is essential for global prosperity, unless we also have rules that are abided by. Twice—just twice since I've been President, we've won this case in the EU. I think we've won it 4 times over the last 10 years. It has gone on—somehow the rules have to work. That's what this is about.

And since it's the EU—I had nothing to do, by the way, with drawing up the details of what would be in the package of counter-vailing tariffs or duties. But I think our Trade Ambassador's office must have felt that since it was an EU dispute, there had to be some—we couldn't just pick out countries and play favorites in that way.

But I regret this very much. And we still have time to fix this. We can still fix this and it can be avoided, and I hope very much we will, in the next few weeks, get a resolution of this. But it's been going on 10 years. And we lose cases in the WTO all the time, and we just take a deep breath and face the fact that we lost. It happens. Now, so I would say to the people of Italy, don't—it's not a unilateral issue.

Now, on the—you asked me about the United Nations. Let me just say—I can't—there are very few countries in the world, in the years that I've been President, who have shown more consistent leadership, even through a successive change of governments, than Italy. For us, it's a critical country in so many ways. And I was delighted that the Prime Minister would come here today. I would do anything I could to increase the responsibility and reach of Italy.

The United States has had a long-standing policy in favor of expanding the Security Council to include Japan and Germany, largely because of the size of their economies and their influence and their importance for that reason. And we have been—we have recognized that there are countries in the developing world that believe they should have more permanent membership. So we have

been for an expansion in the size of the Security Council, generally, to guarantee certain continents and regions a permanent position.

The position we have taken should not be viewed as an anti-Italian position. We've tried to calculate how many people can you have on the Security Council and still have it function. That's basically where we've been. I'm not obsessed with any—there is no magic number. But what we're trying to do is not to hold back anyone but to keep the Security Council as a functioning body. But I doubt very seriously that there's another leader of any other country in the world that has a higher opinion of the international responsibility and capacity of the Italian Government and the Italian people than I do, after having observed it for 6 years.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 170th news conference began at 5:15 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to former Prime Minister Romano Prodi and Minister of Defense Carlo Scognamiglio of Italy; President Jacques Chirac of France; President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); and Monica Lewinsky, subject of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's expanded investigation. He also referred to the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. Prime Minister D'Alema spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

### **Statement on the Kennedy-Murray Amendments to Proposed Education Flexibility Partnership Legislation**

*March 5, 1999*

I strongly support the efforts of Senators Murray and Kennedy to offer a class size amendment to the ed-flex bill. We must make a long-term commitment now to hire 100,000 new, well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. The Republican leadership is wrong to try to shut down debate on this bill before a class size amendment can be voted on. I urge them to allow an up-or-down vote on this amendment, and I urge every Senator to vote for it.

## **Statement on the Death of Billy Jack Gaither**

*March 5, 1999*

I share with many Americans a sense of grief and outrage at the tragic and violent death of Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama. This heinous and cowardly crime touches the conscience of our country, just as the terrible murders of James Byrd in Texas and Matthew Shepard in Wyoming did last year.

In times like this, the American people pull together and speak with one voice, because the acts of hatred that led to the deaths of such innocent men are also acts of defiance against the values our society holds most dear.

That is why I will continue to work for passage of the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act," which can empower the Federal Government, working with local authorities, to do even more to deter, investigate, and help prosecute crimes of hatred. The legislation would remove needless jurisdictional requirements and give the Department of Justice the power to prosecute hate crimes committed because of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

Laws represent values that we as a society cherish, and among those values is a belief that intolerance is un-American. And intolerance, left unchallenged, can inspire evil deeds that threaten the very fabric of this great country. All Americans deserve protection from hate. Nothing is more important to our country's future than our standing together against intolerance, prejudice, and violent bigotry. Congress can give power to such shared values by passing the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act." In so doing, all Americans can be made more safe and secure.

Hillary and I offer our prayers for the family and friends of Mr. Gaither, and our hope that their love for him, together with God's grace, will carry them through these trying times.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **February 27**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Park City, UT.

### **March 1**

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

### **March 3**

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Newark, NJ, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate David B. Sandalow to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs at the State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Holum to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard M. McGahey to be Assistant Secretary for the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration at the Labor Department.

### **March 4**

The President announced his intention to nominate Kelly H. Carnes to be Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy at the Commerce Department.

The President announced his intention to appoint Kenneth H. (Buddy) MacKay as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for the Americas.

### **March 5**

The President announced his intention to nominate Bill Lann Lee to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the Justice Department.